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T.M.  
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Chikashi SATOU et al.

Group Art Unit: 3683

Application No.: 09/987,982

Examiner: X. Nguyen

Filed: November 16, 2001

Docket No.: 110811

For: RANGE SHIFT DISPLAY UNIT AND RAND SHIFT DISPLAY METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed March 21, 2003, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-11. In reply to the Election of Species Requirement mailed March 21, 2003, Applicants provisionally elect Species 1A, Figure 1. Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 6-8, 10 and 11 read on elected Species 1A, Figure 1. It is submitted that at least claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10 and 11 are generic to species 1A and 1B. This election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all groups/species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of the elected groups/species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining groups/species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which is stated that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent

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inventions." (Emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18 can be examined without undue burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction/Election of Species Requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: April 21, 2003

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